

A chronological history of  
**PARADISE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**2100 Nall Street**  
**Port Neches, TX**

**I. CONSTITUTED: November 9, 1941**

14 Members

Met upstairs in the Labor Union Hall of the Goolsby Building in downtown Pt. Neches Churches from Warren, TX; Rosepine, LA; Rock Springs, AR; and Pleasant Grove, AR gave the right arm to constitute church

Elder J. P. Dale was chosen as the first Pastor

Brother Clint Wilson was chosen as the first Clerk and Treasurer

Brothers E. F. Miller and Clint Wilson were ordained as first Deacons

**II. HISTORY**

January 11, 1942: Brother Woodrow Wilson was liberated to exercise in public

March 14, 1943: Brother Woodrow Wilson ordained as an Elder in the Primitive Baptist Church He would serve as an elder in the area churches for the rest of his life. He passed away June 21, 2004.

November 13, 1943: Elder Woodrow Wilson was called as Pastor of Paradise Primitive Baptist Church. He would serve faithfully and continuously as Pastor for the next 54 years.

1943: A modest church building was erected at the present-day site at 2100 Nall Street. It was basically a shell of a building for several years. In 1944 a building committee was appointed to look into improving the existing facilities. In 1945 the Church authorized the deacons to borrow \$1200 for the purpose of adding to the facilities.

June 1945: The church held a dedication service for the "new" building.

1948: Deacons were authorized to borrow an additional \$1000 to complete the work on the building.

November 10, 1951: The church purchased the extra lot beside the church building.

Note: Around 1950-1951, Kitchen and dining room was added.

The baptistery was added at some point between 1948 and 1955, possibly at same time kitchen and dining room was added. There is no record of exact dates in the Church history.

January 1957: The sign that sits out in the front of the building was installed as a gift to the church by one of the members.

October 1958: The auditorium was air conditioned.

September 1962: Hurricane Carla caused an evacuation of the area resulting in the first time services were not held at the Church.

1963: Brickstone was added to the exterior and the interior was remodeled.

March 25, 1965: Article appeared in The Chronicle about the Church.

1966: The kitchen and dining room was air conditioned

1991: Dining Room was painted. As far as we know, this was the first time it had been repainted since it was originally built.

November 1991: Celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church. Four of the five (at that time) elders who had been ordained at Paradise were present with us. One had died in an auto accident several years before. Elder J. P. Dale, who was pastor at the time the church was constituted, was guest speaker for the weekend meeting.

November 13, 1993: Celebrated Elder Wilson's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Pastor of Paradise PBC.

1996: Tore off brickstone siding, opening back up the windows on both sides of church. Installed new windows.

July 1999: The covered walkway from the dining room to the parking lot was donated by one member

July 1999: Had the parking lot paved.

August 1999: The covered back porch and walkway to the storage building was donated by family of two members.

November 2000: Established an Annual Meeting to be held the third weekend in April each year. This was done when the Bithynia Association, which the church had been a member of since 1941, folded in August 2000.

April 2001: First Annual Meeting held. Elder Luke Addison, grandson of Elder Marlvn Peterson (who was ordained at Paradise) was one of two guest speakers.

January 2005: Barnett Construction Company of Port Neches remodeled the interior of the Church.

September 24, 2005: Hurricane Rita hit! Had limbs from big trees come through windows in auditorium. Thankfully, only minor damages.

November 2007: Barnett again updated ceilings in auditorium.

September 24-25, 2008: Hurricane Ike hit! Church sustained some damages; new roof installed.

### **III. ELDERS ORDAINED AT PARADISE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Elder Woodrow Wilson, March 14, 1943. He would serve for rest of his life as an Elder; serving as Pastor of Paradise for 54 continuous and faithful years. He passed away June 21, 2004.

Elder Floyd O'Neal, September 1957.

Elder J. M. (Marlvn) Peterson, May 1958.

Elder Gerald Read, January 1963.

Elder Michael Rhodes, January 28, 1989. Called as Pastor November 1997. Continuous service since.

Elder Gary Rhodes, April 14, 2007.

#### **IV. AREA CHURCHES CONSTITUTED BY ARM FROM PARADISE CHURCH:**

Vidor Primitive Baptist Church, November 7, 1959; 16 members

Canaan Primitive Baptist Church, Orange, TX, November 9, 1963; 22 members

#### **V. PASTORS**

Elder J. P. Dale, November 9, 1941- 1943

Elder Woodrow Wilson, November 13, 1943-1997

Elder Michael Rhodes, November 9, 1997-present

#### **VI. DEACONS ORDAINED AT PARADISE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Brother E. F. Miller, November 9, 1941

Brother C. L. Wilson, November 9, 1941 Served as Treasurer 1941-1975

Brother Linton Rhodes, November 1950

Brother A. J. Hall, December 1950

Brother Gilbert Marze, April 1961

Brother A. R. Young, November 10, 1963

Brother Roy Griffin, November 10, 1963 Served as Treasurer 1975-1987

Brother W. L. Carter, August 13, 1967

Brother Claude Nowlin, March 13, 19~~67~~<sup>67</sup>

Brother Noah Morvant, March 13, 1967

Brother E. R. Williford, December 14, 1980 Served as Treasurer 1987-1990

Brother Michael Rhodes, December 11, 1983

Brother Alan Chisum, May 20, 1989 Served as Treasurer 1990-present day

Brother J. D. (Delbert) Peet, September 7, 1991

Brother Gary Rhodes, May 24, 1997

## **VII. CLERKS**

Brother C. L. Wilson, 1941  
Sister Grace Kellums, November 1954  
Sister Vergie Griffin, November 1955  
Brother Aubrey Young, November 1961  
Sister Carole Peet, February 8, 1964  
Sister Valerie Carter, November 12, 1966  
Sister Cheryle Rhodes, November 12, 1983  
Sister Janie Alvarado, November 8, 1986  
Sister Martha Chisum, July 1996  
Brother Gary Rhodes, November 2002  
Sister Martha Chisum, November 2006-present day

## **VIII. ARTICLES OF FAITH**

- I. We believe in the one true and living God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
- II. We believe that the Old and New Testaments are the inspiration of God, and the only rule of faith and practice, and prefer translation made under the authority of King James.
- III. We believe that the entire human family were created in Adam, their seminal head, and that all alike fell in him by his transgression of the law, and all partake of his sinful nature.
- IV. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his people before the foundation of the world.
- V. We believe that the chosen in Christ shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and that they shall be preserved by the Grace of God eternally.
- VI. We believe that eternal life is the gift of God, and good works are the fruit of the spirit, which justifies our gracious state before men and angels.
- VII. We believe that baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, that true believers are the only subjects of baptism, and washing the saint's feet is a duty enjoined by Jesus Christ and should be done in church capacity.

- VIII. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the gospel but one who is regularly baptized and called of God and has come under the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.
- IX. We believe that none but regularly baptized believers have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.
- X. We believe in the resurrection of the body, and that the vile bodies of the saints that are chosen in Christ shall be fashioned like unto the Glorious body of Christ and, the felicity of the saints shall be eternal.

### **IX. SERVICES**

Currently, services are held second through fifth Sundays at the Church in Port Neches. First Sundays are reserved to allow visitation among other Primitive Baptist Churches in the area. Our Pastor, Elder Mike Rhodes, also serves as Pastor of Canaan PB Church in Orange; and many members will attend services there on first Sundays.

We have a Biblically based, very simple worship service consisting of acapella singing beginning at 10:30 each Sunday morning, followed by prayer and preaching. We subscribe to the King James Version of the Bible, preferring the 1611 translation, believing it is the inspired Word of God.

We have lunch at church every Sunday, enjoying fellowship with each other. This has been a long-standing tradition of the Church as long as anyone can remember. At one time, we decided to limit lunch to once a month, but after a year, we reinstated it every Sunday.

While we are small band in numbers, we are great in faith and love. We would invite you to come and worship His Great and Holy Name with us at any time. You certainly will be welcomed.